



# **New Hope Telephone Company**

July 3, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: New Hope Telephone Company (ID#805731)  
Contributor Appeal

Ref: FCC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is being filed to appeal the May 6, 2002 decision of the administrator of the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) to deny the appeal of New Hope Telephone Company for recovery of Universal Service Fund contributions paid in error in calendar year 2000.

New Hope Telephone Company is a small, rural, member owned company serving less than one thousand lines in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. By its size, New Hope does not maintain a large staff which is knowledgeable in many facets of regulatory reporting. New Hope makes every reasonable effort to remain cognizant of these requirements and comply fully with them. However, the case at issue is one which simply was overlooked.

Since the inception of the USF requirements, New Hope had been a *de minimus* reporting company which is defined as having an annual contribution of less than \$10,000 (Part 54, Section 54.708) and was thus exempt from reporting. This fact can be verified by USAC records. However, due to required changes to the USF formula effective January 1, 2000, which were not applied correctly by New Hope, the reporting changes from the *de minimus* status to a contributor status of \$29,550 for the year 2000.

New Hope recognized this problem in February 2002 and immediately began steps to recover the overpayments. However, due to a procedural requirement of USAC which limits the opportunity for filing revised data and truing-up any errors, the periods outside this window were denied. New Hope, therefore, respectfully requests that the FCC grant its appeal to extend the opportunity to revise data and allow New Hope the recovery of its revenues.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Hensley  
Secretary/Treasurer  
New Hope Telephone Company

cc: USAC Administrator  
Kelly Chapman, President New Hope Telephone Company  
Anita Cheng, FCC Common Carrier Bureau  
James Shook, FCC Enforcement Bureau  
Lisa Tubbs, USAC Manager Revenue Administration

P. O. Box 66 • New Hope, Virginia 24469

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| RE: NEW HOPE TELEPHONE COMPANY<br>(ID# 805731)<br>CONTRIBUTOR APPEAL<br>REF: FCC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21 |              |               |  |  |              |               |  |  |
|  |              |               |  |  |              |               |  |  |
|  |              |               |  |  |              |               |  |  |
| ORIGINAL FILING FOR 2000 499-A   |              |               |  | REVISED FILING FOR 2000 499-A  |              |               |  |  |
|  |              |               |  | these figures represent the corrected revision that we are asking be processed |              |               |  |  |
| LINE 419 A   | LINE 419 D   | LINE 419 E    |  | LINE 419 A   | LINE 419 D   | LINE419 E     |  |  |
| Total revenue  | Interstate   | International |  | Total rev.   | Interstate   | International |  |  |
| \$848,375.00   | \$674,189.00 | \$172,207.00  |  | \$654,338.00   | \$254,653.00 | \$-           |  |  |
|  |              |               |  |  |              |               |  |  |
|  |              |               |  | Line 420a  | line 420d    | line 420e     |  |  |
|  |              |               |  | total  | interstate   |               |  |  |
|  |              |               |  | \$315,917.00   | \$38,521.00  | \$-           |  |  |